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Docket No. GYN5014

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Daniel J. Smith et al. Confirmation No.: 7242

Serial No. : 10/706,734 Art Unit: 3728

Filed : November 12, 2003 Examiner:

For : Packaging Assembly for Surgical Instruments

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

5/25/05

(Date of Deposit)

Melissa J. Szanto, Reg. 40,834  
(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

Melissa Szanto  
(Signature)

5/25/05

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application (other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, no additional fee is required.

In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in §1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution and that it is accompanied by one of:

- Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e)  
(attached); or
- Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

In accordance with §1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311 but before the payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. Included are: Statement in

Accordance with §1.97(e) as set forth below and the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) .

Copies of only foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 (a) (2) .

There are no listed references which are not in the English language.

The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows:

Attached are copies of search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s) , which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant, which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

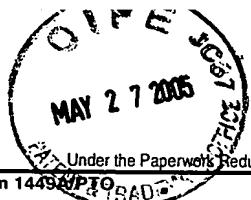
Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/GYN5014/MJS. This form is submitted in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Melissa J. Szanto  
Reg. No. 46,834  
Attorney for Applicants

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DATED:  
3/25/05



## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Confirmation Number    | 7242            |
| Application Number     | 10/706,734      |
| Filing Date            | 11/12/2003      |
| First Named Inventor   | Daniel J. Smith |
| Group Art Unit         | 3728            |
| Examiner Name          |                 |
| Attorney Docket Number | GYN5014         |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

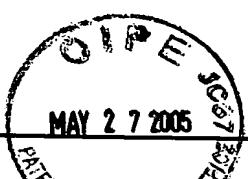
## **OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

| Exam<br>Initials<br>• | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published | T <sup>2</sup> |
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**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.  
**DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS, SEND TO:** Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



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**SUBMISSION UNDER MPEP 609 D**

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| Examiner Name          |                 |
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## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

|                       |  |                    |  |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner<br>Signature |  | Date<br>Considered |  |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|